# **HRA VEBA Enrollment Kit**

For public employees in the Northwest





# **BASIC PLAN INFORMATION & ENROLLMENT FORM**

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# Introduction

Congratulations! You are enrolling in the HRA VEBA Plan, a health reimbursement arrangement for public employees in the Northwest.

You can use your HRA VEBA account to reimburse eligible out-of-pocket healthcare costs and premiums for you, your spouse, and qualified dependents. Generally, dependents must satisfy the IRS definition of "qualifying child" or "qualifying relative" as of the end of the calendar year in which expenses were incurred. See Definition of Dependent at hraveba.org.

## The law objectives are:

- To enterthe year semployer to make tax-free contributions to the plan on your behalf.
- From your except in to be credited with tax-from meabhain earnings, and
- To enable you to obtain the hoe rembursements for your eligible outof-posted headfloars versiones and insurance premiums.

Contributions, earnings, and withdrawals (claims) are not tax reportable. Contributions will not be included on Form W-2 from your employer and you will not receive a Form 1099 for earnings or withdrawals (claims).

Unused funds in your account carryover from year to year.

## Enrollment

Now that you are eligible to enroll, simply complete the attached Enrollment Form and return it to your employer. IRS rules require that all employee group members defined as eligible must participate.

You will become a participant and your account will be activated when the third-party administrator (TPA) receives a contribution from your employer and your completed and signed Enrollment Form.

Once the above items are received, the TPA will send you a welcome packet. Your welcome packet will provide you with:

- · Your participant account number
- Welcome letter confirming your employer's initial contribution
- Plan Summary
- · Login directions for myHRA VEBA online
- · Claim Form

# **Investment Options**

You can choose either one of two participant- . directed investment options. The enclosed Investment Fund Information brochure contains detailed information.

## Option A: Do-it-yourself

Build your own portfolio using funds from seven individual asset classes.

**Option B: Choose a pre-mix**Select any one of four professionally designed, pre-mixed asset allocation portfolios.

You can change your investment fund allocation anytime up to once a month.

Net investment earnings (or losses) after fund management and trust administrative expenses have been deducted are credited tax-free to your account daily.

## Third-party Administrator

Contact the TPA, Meritain Health, for information regarding your account, questions about claims, or to request forms. Meritain Health has more than 30 years of experience and is available to serve you from its Minneapolis service center.

Please immediately notify the TPA of any changes to your name, contact information, or systematic premium reimbursement details.

## **Qualified Expenses & Premiums**

Common qualified expenses include co-pays, coinsurance, deductibles, prescriptions, etc. Eligible insurance premiums include medical, dental, vision, tax-qualified long-term care (subject to IRS limits), Medicare Part B, Medicare Part D, and Medicare supplement plans. Go to hraveba.org for a more detailed list.

Insurance premiums paid by an employer, or premiums that are or could be deducted pre-tax through your or your spouse's Section 125 cafeteria plan, are not eligible for reimbursement.

If you or your spouse have a section 125 healthcare flexible spending account (FSA), you must exhaust the FSA benefits before submitting claims.

#### Claims

Withdrawals (claims) from your account can be made only for eligible out-of-pocket healthcare expenses and premiums.

Simply e-mail, fax, or mail a completed Claim Form or Systematic Premium Reimbursement Form to the TPA. Get these forms online at **hraveba.org**, or by contacting the TPA.

# **BASIC PLAN INFORMATION & ENROLLMENT FORM**

#### Claims - continued

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Qualified expenses and premiums submitted for reimbursement must be incurred after your account is first activated and you become eligible to file claims. Insurance premiums paid by an employer, or premiums that are or could be deducted pre-tax through your or your spouse's section 125 cafeteria plan, are not eligible for reimbursement.

## Plan Expenses

All expenses of operating the HRA VEBA Trust are paid by a \$1.50/month per account fee, plus an annualized fee of approximately 1.25% of your average participant account balance. This fee is adjusted periodically as plan expenses change. The annualized fee is paid by a reduction to investment earnings or, if there are no earnings, charged as a deduction to participant accounts.

Trust operating and administrative expenses include legal fees, consulting, local servicing, printing, postage, auditing, claims processing, account administration, etc.

## Survivor Benefit

If you pass away, remaining funds in your account may continue to be used by your surviving spouse and qualified dependent(s) to reimburse eligible healthcare expenses and premiums. Surviving spouses and qualified dependents enjoy the same tax advantages as participants.

If you have no eligible survivors, remaining funds will be forfeited and reallocated per the instruction provided by your employer in their Adoption Agreement. IRS Revenue Ruling 2006-36 does not permit the payment of benefits to non-dependent heirs.

## **Online Services**

When you receive your welcome packet, go to hraveba.org and click the link to myHRA VEBA online. After logging in, you can:

- View account details and investment performance
- Track the status of claims in progress and view claims history
- Set up a systematic premium reimbursement
- Update account preferences, investment allocations, and other information

You do not have to login to access general plan information and fillable forms at **hraveba.org**.

## **Account Statements**

If you provide a valid e-mail address and elect to receive electronic communication (recommended), you will be notified when your quarterly participant activity statement is available online. Otherwise, paper participant activity statements will be mailed to you in January and July.

## **Board of Trustees**

The HRA VEBA Plan is offered by the non-profit, tax-exempt HRA VEBA Trust which is

managed by a board of trustees elected by plan participants.

# **Contact Information**

Contact the third-party administrator for:

- Account information
- Paper forms
- Claims and systematic premium reimbursement inquiries

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# Plan Consultant & Local Service

VEBA Service Group, LLC

#### Western Washington

1024 Main Street Sumner, WA 98390-1413 Phone: 1-800-422-4023 Fax: (253) 826-1929

#### Eastern Washington & Idaho

906 West 2nd Avenue, Suite 400 Spokane, WA 99201-4502 Phone: 1-800-888-VEBA (8322) Fax: (509) 838-5613

#### Oregon

101 E. Eighth Street, Suite 330B Vancouver, WA 98660-3295 Phone: 1-877-695-3945 Fax: (360) 695-3945

#### Legal Counsel

Katten Muchin Rosenman LLP 525 West Monroe Street Chicago, IL 60661-3693 Russell Greenblatt

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# **Investment Fund Information**

Performance results are contained on the Investment Fund Overview updated quarterly at hraveba.org.



# Which option is right for you?

Are you comfortable making your own investment decisions?

YES

OPTION A:
Do-it-yourself

OPTION B:
Choose a pre-mix

Option A: Do-it-yourself

Option B: Choose a pre-mix Build your own portfolio using funds from among seven individual asset classes.

Select one of four professionally designed pre-mixed asset allocation portfolios each with a risk level that gives strong consideration to your projected time horizon (i.e. the length of time until you expect to begin filing claims).

# Important Investment Guidelines

# What is your asset allocation strategy?

Before making your investment decision, you should define your asset allocation strategy. A proper asset allocation strategy (i.e. choosing the right blend of asset classes for your financial situation) can help reduce risk and increase potential return over time.

## What kind of investor are you?

Determining what kind of investor you are will help you define your asset allocation strategy. In other words, are you most interested in *growing* your account or *preserving* your account? If you are most interested in growing your account, you must be willing to tolerate more risk and accept potentially large fluctuations in value. Preserving your account generally involves less risk and should result in smaller fluctuation in value.

# What is your time horizon?

Your time horizon is the number of years you have to invest, or the length of time until you anticipate filing claims. Investors with longer time horizons are often willing to tolerate more risk; investors with shorter time horizons tolerate less risk.

Time is very important when determining your asset allocation strategy. Investments may increase in value over time assisted by the power of compounding, and time can help smooth the ups and downs of the financial market. Your asset allocation strategy should depend heavily on how much time you have until you will begin filing claims.

## Risk vs. potential reward

Risk is generally thought of as the possibility of losing money on investments. If your investment's value fluctuates significantly down and up, and you make a withdrawal for a qualified medical expense during a down market investment period, you may experience loss. You also need to consider inflation risk, the change that your investments will not earn enough to keep pace with the rising cost of living, in this case, increasing health care costs. Consider the following general principals of risk:

- Reducing one type of risk generally requires you take on more of another
- The higher the risk, the higher the potential for reward; the lower the risk, the lower the potential for reward
- The shorter the time frame you have for investing, the more you should reduce investment risk

#### Asset class

Asset classes come in three general types: stocks, bonds, and short-term investments (stable value). Your overall investment strategy will help you determine what percentage you should allocate to each asset class.

## **Diversification**

You know the old saying, "Don't put all your eggs in one basket"? With investing, this is called diversification. It's the process of spreading your money among different asset classes. In addition, mutual funds are diversified and if you invest your money in a stock mutual fund, you will hold stock in many different companies. Even if a few companies perform poorly, their losses may be offset by stocks that perform well.

## Asset allocation

Choosing the right combination of investments for your portfolio is called asset allocation. This is an important step that can help you reach your retirement goals. When you allocate your assets, you spread your savings out among stable value, bond, and stock investments, but not in random amounts. Aggressive investors with long-term goals may prefer portfolios with more stocks, while more conservative investors are likely to use more stable value and bonds. As you build your investment portfolio, consider your personal situation. Your asset allocation decisions should be based on:

- When you will begin to file claims
- The amount of time you have to reach your goal
- Your own tolerance for risk
- Your other savings and investments

# Important investment guidelines - continued

# Importance of rebalancing

Over time, some of your investment fund selections may grow more quickly than others, some may even lose value, causing your portfolio to become out of alignment with your original allocation percentages.

Rebalancing periodically redistributes your entire account balance according to your most recent allocation percentages on file with the third-party administrator. This process aids in maintaining the level of risk you are willing to take and helps you achieve the goals and objectives of your asset allocation strategy.

Rebalancing at the end of each calendar year is optional under **Option A: Do-it-yourself**. The pre-mixed asset allocation portfolios offered under **Option B: Choose a pre-mix** are automatically rebalanced quarterly.

#### No guarantees

Keep in mind that the use of asset allocation or diversification as part of an investment strategy does not guarantee a profit or guarantee against a loss.

Funds are not FDIC insured, are not guaranteed by a bank, and may lose value. Even the most conservative investment fund option may lose value.

#### More information

Go to **hraveba.org** for more information, including historical fund performance. Fund fact sheets and prospectuses can be found at each fund's respective Web site listed below.

# Option A: Do-It-Yourself

Listed below are the available asset classes and funds you can use to build your own portfolio. Performance results are contained on the **Investment Fund Overview** updated quarterly at **hraveba.org**.

Dwight Separate Account | www.dwight.com LOWEST POTENTIAL RISK Seeks to provide preservation of capital with competitive interest earnings. Stable Value NOTE: Dwight Separate Account is the most conservative investment fund choice. PIMCO Total Return Institutional | www.pimcofunds.com **Total Return Bond** Seeks maximum total return, consistent with preservation of capital and prudent investment management. Vanguard Balanced Index Institutional | www.vanguard.com With 60% of its assets, seeks to track the performance of a benchmark index that Balanced measures the return of the overall U.S. stock market. With 40% of its assets, seeks to track the performance of a broad, market-weighted bond index. Vanguard Institutional Index (S&P 500) | www.vanguard.com Seeks to track the performance of a benchmark index that measures the investment Large Cap Equity return of large-capitalization stocks. Rainier Mid Cap effective February 1, 2010 | www.rainierfunds.com Touchstone Mid Cap through January 31, 2010 I www.touchstoneinvestments.com Mid Cap Equity Seeks long-term capital growth by investing in common stocks of medium-capitalization companies. CHEST COMENTAL RIS Champlain Small Company Fund | www.cipvt.com **Small Cap Equity** Seeks capital appreciation by investing in small-capitalization U.S. common stocks. Artio International Equity II | www.artioglobal.com Seeks long-term growth of capital by investing in a wide variety of international International Equity equity securities issued throughout the world, normally excluding the U.S.

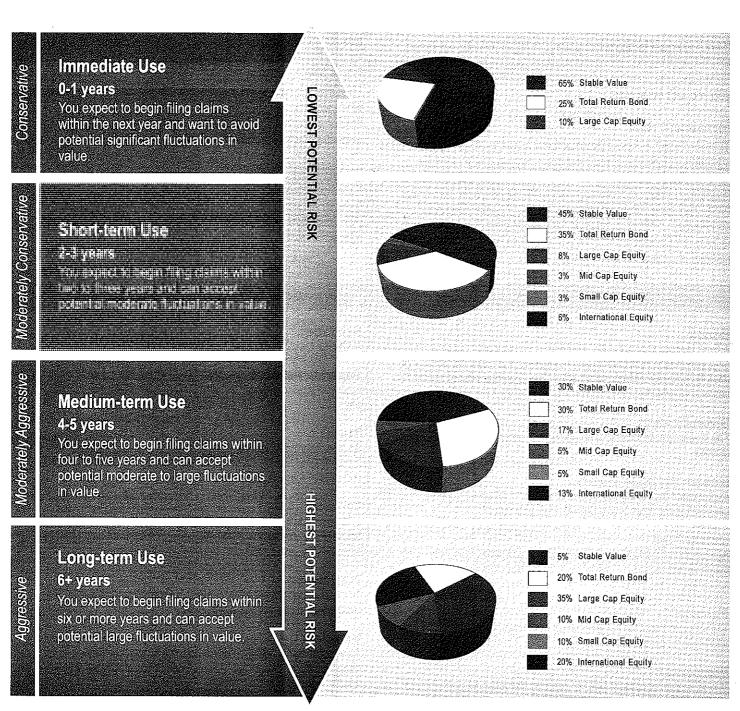
# Option B: Choose a Pre-mix

If you want your asset allocation designed by professionals, HRA VEBA offers a series of pre-mixed portfolios to accommodate a variety of asset allocation strategies from conservative to aggressive. These portfolios are routinely monitored by investment experts using sophisticated financial analysis software and modern portfolio theory.

Many investment advisors recommend the use of pre-mixed portfolios. Pre-mixed portfolios are well diversified and designed to meet specific goals and objectives. The pre-mixed asset allocation portfolios are automatically rebalanced quarterly. Performance results can be found on the quarterly Investment Fund Overview at hraveba.org.

## Which pre-mixed asset allocation portfolio is best for you?

The risk level of each pre-mixed portfolio is designed with strong consideration given to the portfolio's projected time horizon (i.e. the length of time until you expect to begin filing claims). The time horizon is simply a guide; you can always file claims no matter which pre-mix you choose.



# Other Important Information

## Contributions

Contributions received are allocated per your current investment fund allocation election on file with the TPA. If no investment fund allocation election is on file, funds will be allocated to the Stable Value fund.

#### **Transfers**

You may transfer among the investment funds up to once each calendar month. You can make fund transfer requests online or by submitting a completed and signed Account Change Form to the TPA. Transfer requests are generally effective within two to three business days.

#### Withdrawals

If your account is allocated among multiple investment funds, withdrawals from your account will be made proportionately based on your fund allocation election on file with the TPA unless you request otherwise.

#### **Investment Risk**

The Stable Value fund is invested among interest-bearing guaranteed investment contracts (GICs) and is the most conservative fund choice. The remaining funds are invested in securities that will fluctuate in value on a monthly basis, and withdrawals from these funds may be worth more or less than your original employer contribution. Prior to submitting your Participant Enrollment Form or Account Change Form to the TPA, please carefully review your selected investment fund choice(s).

Should your investment objectives change, you should reevaluate your fund selection(s) and make appropriate changes. Remember, any investment that contains stock market investments entails the risk of loss. We must stress that investment returns, particularly over shorter time horizons, are highly dependent on trends in various investment markets. Thus, investing in stocks and bonds is suitable primarily as a longer-term strategy and should not be used by participants who will begin filing claims immediately.

# **Using Multiple Investment Funds**

You may use a single fund or multiple funds when creating your do-it-yourself portfolio. You may choose only one pre-mixed portfolio. You may not choose both a do-it-yourself portfolio and a pre-mixed portfolio.

#### Fund Management Expenses

Fund management expenses vary from fund to fund. Each investment fund's expense ratio can be found on the HRA VEBA Investment Fund Overview updated quarterly at **hraveba.org**, or by visiting each fund's respective website.

#### Investment Advice

Please read this information carefully and consult with your personal financial advisor before making an investment decision. The trustees, plan consultant, and third-party administrator do not give investment advice.

# Investment Terms

#### **Bonds**

A fixed income debt security. Bonds may be issued by corporations or governments (both federal and municipal), and pay a set amount of interest, on a predetermined schedule over a predetermined number of years, until maturity.

## **Diversification**

The investment technique of spreading risk among securities and asset classes.

#### Modern Portfolio Theory

An investment strategy that seeks to build an optimal portfolio by considering the relationship between risk and return.

#### **Mutual Fund**

A collective investment program operated by an investment company which enables small investors to invest in a diversified portfolio of securities.

#### Principal

The amount of money you put into an investment. It does not include appreciation, dividends, or interest.

#### **Prospectus**

Formal written document used to describe securities for sale and are used by mutual funds to describe fund objectives, risks, and other essential information.

#### Securities

A general term for publicly traded stocks and bonds.

#### Separate Account

A custom investment portfolio designed and operated solely for a particular plan sponsor, in this case, the HRA VEBA Trust.

#### **Stocks**

An investment that signifies an ownership position (called equity) in a corporation and represents a claim on its proportional share in the corporation's assets and profits.

#### **Time Horizon**

The length of time an investor will own a particular investment can be viewed as the length of time from the date of investment until the investment is sold or withdrawn.

## **Total Return**

The amount of interest or dividends your investment earns plus any increase or decrease in principal.

#### Volatility

An investment's volatility refers to how much and how often its price changes. Common stocks, for which prices can change sharply, are usually more volatile than bonds.

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NOTE: Your spouse and administrator to have on f	dependent(s) are au ile the full name, Soc	cial Security num	ed under this plan. The bek ber, gender, and date of birt	ow information is red h of all covered indi	ividuals. List	any additional dependen	which requires the third-party ts on an attached sheet of paper.		
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OPTION A: Do-it-			our own fund(s), select ractions.	OPTION B:	Choose a professional	pre-mix. If you want a s, select and complete	an asset allocation strategy created Option B only. Choose only <u>one</u>		
Asset Class / Fund Na	- 11 - Wiss		Allocation %			cannot be processed. I Quarterly rebalancing is	Pre-mix investment allocation automatic.		
Stable Value / Dwight	Separate Account		%						
Total Return Bond / PIMCO Total Return Institutional			·%	Pre-mix name (target time horizon / risk level)					
Balanced / Vanguard Balanced Index Institutional			%						
Large Cap Equity / Vanguard Institutional Index (S&P 500)			00)%	Immediate Use (within 1 year / conservative)					
Mid Cap Equity / Rainier Mid Cap effective February 1, 2010; Touchstone Mid Cap through January 31, 2010			,%	☐ Short-term Use (within 2-3 years / moderately conservative)					
Small Cap Equity / Champlain Small Company%				☐ Medium-term Use (within 4-5 years / moderately aggressive)					
International Equity	Artio Internationa	Equity II	%	ineciam-ter	im ose (wit	illii 4-5 years / modera	itory aggressive)		
		Total must e	•	☐ Long-term	Use (within	6+ years / aggressive	)		
☐ Yes. Rebalance my	·			NOTE: After 6	enrolling, vol	ı can begin filing claims	no matter which pre-mix you		
NOTE: Rebalancing is account balance accord with the third-party admirevoked online or via w	ding to your most re ninistrator (TPA). If	ecent allocation   selected, this op	percentages on file	choose. The begin using y	target time t our account	nonizon represents the le	ength of time until you <u>expect</u> to pre-mix is designed with strong		
4. HOLD HARM	ILESS AGREE	MENT AN	D REQUIRED SIGN	IATURE					
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# 5. ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATION CONSENT (recommended)

(6.) TPA CONTACT INFO

Check one: 

YES (be sure to provide your e-mail address in section 2)

To communicate and deliver information to you quickly and efficiently, electronic communication is recommended. Electronic documents include your welcome letter, Plan Summary, participant activity statements, explanation of benefits (EOBs), and general participant communication. Please note: (1) After logging in to myHRA VEBA online at hraveba.org, you (a) may withdraw your consent for electronic documents at any time without charge by updating your account preferences, (b) will be able to view and print copies of electronic documents (you may request paper copies at no charge by contacting the third-party administrator), and (c) can update your e-mail address on file by updating your personal information; (2) to access electronic documents, you will need a copy of Adobe Acrobat Reader software loaded on your computer. You can download and install a free copy at www.adobe.com; (3)

HRA VEBA Third-party Administrator
Meritain Heaith
PO Box 27810
Minneapolis, MN 55427-0810
1-888-659-8828
Claim Fax (763) 582-3471
participantdata@meritain.com
Trust Website: hraveba.org

# 7. ) DIRECT DEPOSIT ENROLLMENT (recommended)

documents provided electronically will not be mailed via U.S. Mail.

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# 8. ) INVESTMENT OPTIONS

#### Asset Class / Fund Name

Stable Value / Dwight Separate Account

Seeks to provide preservation of capital with competitive interest earnings, www.dwight.com

Total Return Bond / PIMCO Total Return Institutional

Seeks maximum total return, consistent with preservation of capital and prudent investment management. www.pimcofunds.com

Balanced / Vanguard Balanced Index Institutional
With 60% of its assets, seeks to track the performance
of a benchmark index that measures the return
of the overall U.S. stock market. With 40% of its
assets, seeks to track the performance of a broad, market-weighted
bond index www.vanguard.com

Large Cap Equity / Vanguard Institutional Index (S&P 500)

Seeks to track the performance of a benchmark index that measures the investment return of large-capitalization stocks.

www.vanguard.com

Mid Cap Equity / Rainier Mid Cap Equity effective February 1, 2010; Touchstone Mid Cap through January 31, 2010 Seeks long-term capital growth by investing in common stocks of medium-capitalization companies.

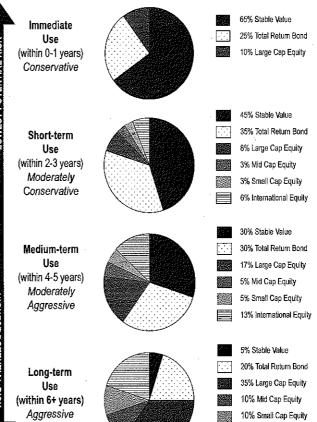
www.rainierfunds.com | www.touchstoneinvestments.com

Small Cap Equity / Champlain Small Company Fund Seeks capital appreciation by investing in small capitalization U.S. common stocks. www.cipvt.com

Int'l Equity / Artio International Equity II

Seeks long-term growth of capital by investing in a wide variety of international equity securities issued throughout the world, normally excluding the U.S. www.artioglobal.com

# Pre-mixed Portfolios



20% International Equity